

KWANZAA

Kwanzaa (**kwahn**-zah) is a non-religious, non-political African-American holiday which was created in 1966 by Maulana (Ron) Karenga. The word “Kwanzaa” means “first fruits of the harvest” in Swahili. Mr. Karenga took elements from many African harvest festivals to create this holiday which lasts for seven days from December 26 to January 1.

On December 31, the sixth day of the holiday, a lavish feast is prepared called the *Kwanzaa Karamu*. Wonderful foods based on the cuisines of the Caribbean, Africa, and South America are prepared. After welcoming remarks, there is a time of remembrance and reflection, rejoicing and feasting, then farewells.

During the time of *Kushangilia* (rejoicing), everyone in the family drinks from *Kikombe cha umoja*, the cup of unity, before feasting on the *mazao*, the fruits and vegetables of the harvest.

A *kinara* is a candle holder which holds seven candles or *mishumaa saba* - one for each of the seven nights of Kwanzaa. The *kinara* symbolizes the continent and peoples of Africa. Three candles are red (to the right), three candles are green (to the left) and the center one is black.

Red stands for the blood of the ancestors shed for generations.
Green stands for the land, the youth, the future growth.
Black stands for the race of the people.

DRINK FROM THE UNITY CUP

(for the Kwanzaa Festival)

for 3-part mixed voices and piano
with optional SoundTrax CD*

Words and Music by

LOIS BROWNSEY and MARTI LUNN LANTZ

Dramatically, somewhat freely (♩ = ca. 100)

FEMALE SOLO *mp*

SOLO

Drink from— the u-ni-ty cup—

PART I
PART II

Dramatically, somewhat freely (♩ = ca. 100)

mp

Ki-

PART III

mp

PIANO

Dramatically, somewhat freely (♩ = ca. 100)

5

MALE SOLO

(end solos)

See how— the can-dles are lit—

kohm-be cha— U-mo-ja.

Mi-

*Also available for 2-part, Level Two (21104)
SoundTrax CD available (21105).
Kee-kohm-beh chah oo-moh-jah (cup of unity)

poco rit.

9

shu - maa — Sa - ba. Mi - shu - maa — Sa -

poco rit.

12 With a steady pulse (♩ = ca. 116)

ba. —————

With a steady pulse (♩ = ca. 116)

mf

16

mf

Drink from — the u - ni - ty cup — for the Kwan-zaa fes - ti - val. —

mf

19

Chil - dren, — light the ki - na - ra* for the

22

Kwan - zaa fes - ti - val. — Ki - kom-be cha U - mo - ja. —

25

Ki - kom-be cha U - mo - ja. —

*Kee-nah-rah (candle holder for Kwanzaa)

Fam - ly and com - mu - ni - ty. — To - geth - er feel the

u - ni - ty. — Ki - kom-be cha U - mo - ja. — Ki -

kom-be cha U - mo - ja. — Drink from — the

kom-be cha U - mo - ja. — Drink from — the

37

u - ni - ty cup — for the Kwan-zaa fes - ti - val. —

40

mf

44

Drink from the u - ni - ty cup — for the Kwan-zaa fes - ti - val. —

mf

47

Chil - dren, — light the ki - na - ra for the

50

Kwan-zaa fes - ti - val. — Mi - shu-maa Sa - ba.* —

52

53

Mi - shu-maa Sa - ba. —

*Mee-shoo-mah Sah-bah (the seven candles of the Kinara)

56

Sev - en can - dles that you light.— A prin - ci - ple to

This system contains measures 56, 57, and 58. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part consists of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

59

60

learn each night.— Mi - shu - maa Sa - ba. Mi -

This system contains measures 59, 60, and 61. Measure 60 is marked with a box containing the number 60. The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

62

shu - maa Sa ba. Drink from— the

This system contains measures 62, 63, and 64. The vocal line includes the lyrics and a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) above the notes. The piano accompaniment also has a dynamic marking of *f* above the notes in measure 64.

65

u - ni - ty cup — for the Kwan-zaa fes - ti - val. —

68

A FEW VOICES

f

Ki-kom-be cha U-mo - ja. —

I, II

Drink from — the u - ni - ty cup. —

III

72

(rejoin section)

Mi-shu-maa Sa - ba. _____

Drink from the u - ni - ty cup. -

76

Drink from the u - ni - ty cup. Kwan - zaa!

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